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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 13 (a)
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Ivan Šimonovi (Croatia), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, in which it decided that the Council should decide on an appropriate work programme for the Committee for Development Policy,

Recalling also its resolution 2000/34 of 28 July 2000 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its second session,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 on the report of the Committee for Development Planning and criteria for identifying the least developed countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the presentation by the Chairman and other members of the Bureau of the Committee for Development Policy and of the report of the Committee on its third session,

Noting that the Committee for Development Policy had received insufficient information to carry out a thorough re-examination of its recommendation to graduate the Maldives from the list of the least developed countries, as requested by the Council in resolution 2000/34,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring a smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status[1] and the note by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the benefits associated with the least developed countries status and the question of graduation,[2]

[1] E/2001/94.
[2] E/2001/CRP.5 and Add.1.

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Having considered the memorandum submitted by the Government of the Maldives,[3]

1. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work on the re-examination of its recommendation to graduate the Maldives from the list of least developed countries at its fourth and fifth sessions and to submit a progress report to the next substantive session and final recommendations to the 2003 substantive session of the Council, taking into account the above information in the present resolution and further information to be provided by relevant development partners and multilateral organizations;

2. *Calls upon* the relevant development partners and multilateral organizations to make available to the Committee for Development Policy the relevant information on their likely response to a country's graduation before the fourth session of the Committee in 2002;

3. *Decides* to extend the transition period of the Maldives until the next triennial review of the list of least developed countries in 2003, as recommended by the Committee on Development Policy;[4]

4. *Urges* the international organizations and bilateral donors to initiate a debate concerning the treatment of graduating countries with a view to ensuring that the graduation of a country from the list of the least developed countries should not result in disruption to its development plans, programmes and projects and the importance of ensuring a smooth transition from least developed country status for countries that become eligible for graduation;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of consulting with relevant Member States in the drawing up and use of country vulnerability profiles as well as the continuing need for transparency, objectivity and accuracy in these processes;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work on the methodology to be used for the identification of the least developed countries, where appropriate in association with other international organizations working on environmental and economic vulnerability issues, and to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2002 on the criteria it proposes to use in the triennial review of the list of the least developed countries scheduled for 2003;

7. *Requests* the Committee, at its fourth session, to examine and make recommendations regarding the theme chosen for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Welcomes* the proposals made by the Committee regarding its future programme of work;

9. *Invites* the Chairman and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue the practice of reporting orally to the Council on the work of the Committee.

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[3] See E/2000/104.

[4] E/2001/33, para. 9.